**Rubric for Evaluating MS Thesis or PhD Dissertation and Defense (Final Oral Exam)**

Committee Members, Readers and Students are responsible for being aware of this evaluation rubric in advance of the defense.

*(This page will be completed by Graduate Committee and a copy of the rubric will be distributed to the committee, readers and student just prior to the defense*)

## Major Advisor Name: Date of Dissertation Defense Dissertation Title

|  |
| --- |
| **Graduate Committee Members** |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| **Thesis/Dissertation Readers** |
|  |
|  |

At the conclusion of the defense, **each committee member and reader must complete the attached response sheets**.

For ea ch attribute that a c ommittee m ember f eels is s omewhat or v ery de ficient, a s hort e xplanation s hould be p rovided. **Confidential C omment** sections at the bottom of the rubric are provided for explanations of the reasoning behind the overall evaluation of the examinee’s performance if desired. Completed forms are to be treated as **confidential** and are to be **turned in to the Dean (or Dean’s designee)**, not to the student.

All examination documents (rubrics and written comments) must be completed regardless of the outcome of the Dissertation Defense.

A copy of the completed forms (both rubrics and written comments) must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies Dean (or Dean’s designee), at the conclusion of the dissertation defense.

A s ummary of written comments and overall evaluation from the committee members **will be pr ovided** to the student, Major Advisor, and Graduate Graduate

# Student’s Name: Student’s Graduate Program:

**Thesis/Dissertation ORAL DEFENSE Rubric – Completed by: Date** *(use M/D/YYYY format)***:**

*(To be completed by each committee member & reader. Please check each evaluation criteria that you feel are appropriate within each attribute category)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute for ORAL** | **Does Not Meet Expectations***Provide a short explanation for each attribute that you select in this category.* | **Meets Expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** |
| **Overall quality of presentation** | Poorly organized Poor presentationPoor communication skillsSlides and handouts difficult to read | Clearly organized Clear presentationGood communication skills Slides and handouts clear | Well organized Professional presentationExcellent communication skills Slides and handouts outstanding |
| **Overall breadth of knowledge** | Presentation unacceptablePresentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge in subject matterPresentation does not reflect well developed critical thinking skillsPresentation is narrow in scope | Presentation acceptablePresentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matterPresentation reveals above average critical thinking skills Presentation reveals the abilityto draw from knowledge inseveral disciplines | Presentation superiorPresentation reveals exceptional depth of subject knowledgePresentation reveals well developed critical thinking skillsPresentation reveals the ability tointerconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines |
| **Quality of response to questions** | Responses are incomplete or require prompting Arguments are poorly presentedRespondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject areaResponses do not meet level expected of degree program of graduate (MS or PhD) | Responses are completeArguments are well organizedRespondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area Responses meet level expectedof degree program of graduate(MS or PhD) | Responses are eloquentArguments are skillfully presentedRespondent exhibits superior knowledge in subject area Responses exceed level expected ofdegree program of graduate (MS orPhD) |
| **Overall Assessment** | Does not meet expectations | Meets Expectations | Exceeds Expectations |
| **Confidential Comments**: |

**WRITTEN Thesis/Dissertation Rubric – Completed by: Date** *(use M/D/YYYY format)***:**

*(To be completed by each committee member & reader. Please check each evaluation criteria that you feel are appropriate within each attribute category)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute for WRITTEN** | **Does Not Meet Expectations***Provide a short explanation for each attribute**that you select in this category.* | **Meets Expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** |
| **Overall quality of science** | Arguments are incorrect, incoherent, or flawed Objectives are poorly definedDemonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skillsDoes not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literatureDemonstrates poor understanding of theoretical conceptsDemonstrates limited originality Displays limited creativity and insight | Arguments are coherent and clear Objectives are clearDemonstrates average critical thinking skillsReflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature Demonstrates understanding oftheoretical conceptsDemonstrates originality Displays creativity and insight | Arguments are superior Objectives are well definedExhibits mature, critical thinking skillsExhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature.Demonstrates mastery of theoretical conceptsDemonstrates exceptional originalityDisplays exceptional creativity and insight |
| **Contribution to discipline** | Limited evidence of discoveryLimited expansion upon previous research Limited theoretical or applied significance Limited publication impact | Some evidence of discovery Builds upon previous researchReasonable theoretical or applied significanceReasonable publication impact | Exceptional evidence of discovery Greatly extends previous researchExceptional theoretical or applied significanceExceptional publication impact |
| **Quality of writing** | Writing is weakNumerous grammatical and spelling errors apparentOrganization is poor Documentation is poor | Writing is adequateSome grammatical and spelling errors apparentOrganization is logical Documentation is adequate | Writing is publication qualityNo grammatical or spelling errors apparentOrganization is excellent Documentation is excellent |
| **Overall Assessment** | Does not meet expectations | Meets Expectations | Exceeds Expectations |

**Confidential Comments**: